

House Resolution No. 831

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives take tremendous pleasure in recognizing those governmental employees who have brought honor to the Show-Me State through their professionalism and willingness to intervene in life-threatening situations; and

Whereas, Corrections Officer I James Bates of the Jefferson City Correctional Center will be awarded the Department of Corrections Lifesaver Award during ceremonies to be held on April 5, 2002, at the South Central Correctional Center in Licking, Missouri; and

Whereas, on August 6, 2001, CO I James Bates and CO I Vern Lewis were performing their duties as school officers when they observed a commotion in one of the classrooms, at which time Officer Lewis called a 10-49 (fight in progress) on the institutional radio and the two officers went to break up the altercation; and

Whereas, two offenders, both armed with ice pick-type weapons, were struggling with each other on the classroom floor when, without regard for their own safety, CO I James Bates and CO I Vern Lewis each secured an offender, disarmed him of his weapon, and moved him out of the area; and

Whereas, CO I James Bates and CO I Vern Lewis' immediate reaction resulted in no injuries to other prisoners or the classroom teacher, and neither offender suffered life-threatening injuries; and

Whereas, both CO I James Bates and CO I Vern Lewis acted without regard for their own safety to ensure the Department's mission, which is to provide a safe and secure environment for prisoners, was accomplished; and

Whereas, a Corrections employee since January 17, 2001, CO I James Bates served as an EMT for eleven years prior to assuming his responsibilities with the Department of Corrections; and

Whereas, CO I James Bates has been blessed with the love and support of a wonderful family whose members include his wife, Carla Bates; and three children, Stephanie, Ryan, and Aaron:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-first General Assembly, join unanimously to applaud the training and practices of CO I James Bates and to congratulate him upon his well-deserved selection for the Department of Corrections Lifesaver Award; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Corrections Officer I James Bates, as a measure of our esteem for him.

Offered by _____
Representative Mark Hampton
District No. 147

I, Jim Kreider, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, do
certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 831, adopted March 18, 2002.

Jim Kreider, Speaker